

Using Strategies Together

Activity: Reading + Podcasting = Engaged Learning

Purpose: To create a podcast reflecting students use of comprehension strategies.

A podcast is audio or video on the web that can be cataloged and automatically downloaded. Students are able to create a product that has the potential to be shared with audiences around the world!

This lesson idea takes reading reflection into the 21st Century! The students in your class can create podcasts with the help of adult volunteers, older students, library media specialists, technology coordinators and practice. Some teachers create a podcast as a whole group activity.



For this activity students reflect on their reading and create a podcast to share with others. Young students may find it easier to express their ideas verbally rather than in writing. Here are some ideas for student reflection about the text they read:

- What was your favorite part? Explain.
- How did this make you feel? Explain.
- What was important in the chapter? How do you know?
- Did your thinking change? Explain.
- What is something new that you learned? Explain.
- What connections did you make? Explain.
- What did it remind you of? Explain.
- Do you have any questions?

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To create a podcast you need:

- Good microphone
- Computer
- Recording and editing software
 - Audacity - Free for Window, Mac OSX, & Linux
<http://audacity.sourceforge.net>
 - Garageband - Free with Mac OSX - iLife
<http://www.apple.com/education/resources/podcastingvideos/>
- On-Line Service - to post your podcast
 - Blogger - <http://blogger.com>
 - Wordpress - <http://wordpress.org>
 - Podomatic - <http://www.podomatic.com>
 - Landmarks Blogmeister - <http://classblogmeister.com>
 - On-Line Service - RSS
 - Feedburner - <http://feedburner.com>
 - On-Line Services - Hosting
 - Ourmedia - <http://www.ourmedia.org>

How to make a podcast:

- Record an audio file
- Edit your audio and add music
- Convert the file to mp3 format
- Upload the file to a web server
- Create an RSS feed
- Listen and share your podcast!

Differentiated instruction is a process to approach teaching and learning for students of differing abilities in the same class. This activity is a great way to differentiate instruction for your students that have writing difficulties.